

# *Town of Scituate*

195 DANIELSON PIKE  
P.O. BOX 328  
NORTH SCITUATE, RHODE ISLAND 02857

July 13, 2020

TO: Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee

Dear Honorable Members:

I am writing regarding Bill H8102. This bill was introduced in the 2020 legislative session related to streamlining emergency voting.

As Canvassing Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk, I would like to strongly support this bill. The passing of this bill is paramount to our office staff in being able to process emergency voting requests in the most efficient manner possible. Use of the poll pad and DS-200 will decrease the amount of paperwork required and create a more secure process for voters and staff. We feel voters will feel more comfortable submitting their ballot directly into the DS-200 themselves.

I respectfully ask the General Assembly to seriously consider the importance of this bill.

Very truly yours,

Gloria Taylor,  
Deputy Town Clerk & Canvassing Clerk



# Town of Westerly

Town Hall • 45 Broad Street • Westerly, Rhode Island 02891

TEL: (401) 348-2503 • FAX: (401) 348-2318

## Board of Canvassers

July 13, 2020

Representative Samuel A. Azzinaro  
20 Piezzo Drive  
Westerly, RI 02891

Dear Representative Azzinaro:

On behalf of the Westerly Board of Canvassers, I am requesting your support of proposed legislation House Bill 8102. The Board of Elections submitted this Bill for consideration in the 2020 Legislative session. The Bill would change the method by which Emergency Voting would be conducted beginning with the Statewide Primary on September 8, 2020. The sponsor of the House Bill 8102 is Representative Evan P. Shanley.

The estimation of mail ballot requests for September 2020 and November 2020 has increased dramatically. Over 155,000 voters requested mail ballots for the 2020 Presidential Preference Primary held on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is imperative to the success 2020 elections to have your support for this crucial Bill for the voters of Rhode Island.

The highlights of House Bill 8102 include:

- Increases voter confidence by using a DS200 (voting machine)
- Eliminates ballot remakes (voter has used unreadable marks to complete ballot)
- Eliminates the emergency ballot application by using the Electronic poll pad

The Westerly Board of Canvassers would like to thank you for considering support of proposed legislation H8102.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista M. Tracy  
Registrar/Clerk  
Westerly Board of Canvassers  
(401) 348-2503

Cc Westerly Town Council  
J. Mark Rooney, Town Manager  
Robert Rapoza, Executive Director, Rhode Island Board of Elections

Sent to: Representative Filippi  
Representative Kennedy



# Town of Westerly

Town Hall • 45 Broad Street • Westerly, Rhode Island 02891

TEL: (401) 348-2503 • FAX: (401) 348-2318

## Board of Canvassers

July 13, 2020

Representative Blake Anthony Filippi  
74 West Side Road  
Block Island, RI 02807

Dear Representative Filippi:

On behalf of the Westerly Board of Canvassers, I am requesting your support of proposed legislation House Bill 8102. The Board of Elections submitted this Bill for consideration in the 2020 Legislative session. The Bill would change the method by which Emergency Voting would be conducted beginning with the Statewide Primary on September 8, 2020. The sponsor of the House Bill 8102 is Representative Evan P. Shanley.

The estimation of mail ballot requests for September 2020 and November 2020 has increased dramatically. Over 155,000 voters requested mail ballots for the 2020 Presidential Preference Primary held on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is imperative to the success 2020 elections to have your support for this crucial Bill for the voters of Rhode Island.

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- Eliminates ballot remakes (voter has used unreadable marks to complete ballot)
- Eliminates the emergency ballot application by using the Electronic poll pad

The Westerly Board of Canvassers would like to thank you for considering support of proposed legislation H8102.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista M. Tracy  
Registrar/Clerk  
Westerly Board of Canvassers  
(401) 348-2503

Cc Westerly Town Council  
J. Mark Rooney, Town Manager  
Robert Rapoza, Executive Director, Rhode Island Board of Elections

Sent to: Representative Azzinaro  
Representative Kennedy



# Town of Westerly

Town Hall • 45 Broad Street • Westerly, Rhode Island 02891

TEL: (401) 348-2503 • FAX: (401) 348-2318

## Board of Canvassers

July 13, 2020

Representative Brian P. Kennedy  
17 Brenden Street  
Westerly, RI 02891

Dear Representative Kennedy:

On behalf of the Westerly Board of Canvassers, I am requesting your support of proposed legislation House Bill 8102. The Board of Elections submitted this Bill for consideration in the 2020 Legislative session. The Bill would change the method by which Emergency Voting would be conducted beginning with the Statewide Primary on September 8, 2020. The sponsor of the House Bill 8102 is Representative Evan P. Shanley.

The estimation of mail ballot requests for September 2020 and November 2020 has increased dramatically. Over 155,000 voters requested mail ballots for the 2020 Presidential Preference Primary held on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is imperative to the success 2020 elections to have your support for this crucial Bill for the voters of Rhode Island.

The highlights of House Bill 8102 include:

- Increases voter confidence by using a DS200 (voting machine)
- Eliminates ballot remakes (voter has used unreadable marks to complete ballot)
- Eliminates the emergency ballot application by using the Electronic poll pad

The Westerly Board of Canvassers would like to thank you for considering support of proposed legislation H8102.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista M. Tracy  
Registrar/Clerk  
Westerly Board of Canvassers  
(401) 348-2503

Cc Westerly Town Council  
J. Mark Rooney, Town Manager  
Robert Rapoza, Executive Director, Rhode Island Board of Elections

Sent to: Representative Azzinaro  
Representative Filippi



CITY OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND  
Canvassing Authority  
City Hall - 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
43 Broadway  
Newport, Rhode Island 02840  
Phone: (401) 845-5384 / Fax: (401) 848-5750  
[www.cityofnewport.com](http://www.cityofnewport.com)

July 13, 2020

TO: Honorable House Judiciary Committee and Leadership  
Honorable Senate Judiciary Committee and Leadership

RE: **House Bill 8102**

I previously sent a letter in support of the Board of Elections proposed legislation (House Bill 7896 / Senate Bill 2598) relative to changes to emergency voting. The bills were met with opposition from Common Cause and other voter advocacy groups. I concur with many of the concerns they addressed.

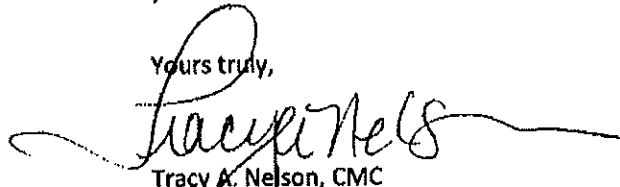
The above-referenced bill is a revision eliminating the changes that were of concern to the advocacy groups and simplifies the legislation to make one basic change; allow the local Boards of Canvassers to utilize electronic poll pads and optical scan ballot readers during the emergency voting period.

With the anticipated increase in the number of voters requesting emergency ballots, passage of this legislation will ensure the local boards continued success during the emergency period by minimizing the number of voters that would need to cast ballots under the current cumbersome process. The majority of emergency ballots would be cast in a manner that mirrors the Election Day process.

This legislation will also greatly benefit voters whereas they will see their ballot has been counted, and have an opportunity to correct ballot errors, an advantage not provided by the current process. There would be an added bonus of ballot security since there would not be frequent transport of ballots from local boards to the Board of Elections.

For the reasons aforementioned, I strongly urge you to pass this legislation. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours truly,

  
Tracy A. Nelson, CMC  
Newport Canvassing Clerk



TOWN of NEW SHOREHAM  
OFFICE of the TOWN CLERK

TELEPHONE (401) 466-3200  
FAX (401) 466-3219  
TTY 711

July 13, 2020

The Honorable Blake Filippi  
PO Box 298  
Block Island RI 02907  
Via email: [rep-filippi@rilegislature.gov](mailto:rep-filippi@rilegislature.gov)

Re: Support for 8102 Relating to Elections – Mail Ballots

Dear Representative Filippi:

I am writing as Clerk of the New Shoreham Board of Canvassers to urge your support of H8102, introduced July 10, 2010 and now before the House Committee on the Judiciary.

The bill is an improvement over H 7896, which sought to simplify the emergency balloting process. H8102 truly streamlines emergency voting by simply giving the voter the option of using time-tested technology to cast a ballot at Town Hall during the emergency balloting period. The technology offers efficiencies at the local level by allowing the use of pollpads during the application process. I believe voters will also feel more secure with the new system: if a ballot is spoiled and cannot be counted, the voting machine will reject it and the voter will have the option of casting a new ballot. And time will be saved during the tabulation period when thousands of emergency votes will be electronically transmitted.

No voters will be disenfranchised because they will have the option to use the existing emergency balloting system.

Revenue shortfalls under Covid-19 have left us struggling to do "more with less." We are all expecting record-breaking voter turnout. Passage of the bill and the attendant streamlining of emergency voting process will help to my office operate more efficiently during this challenging time.

I respectfully request your support of this legislation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Fiona Fitzpatrick  
New Shoreham Town Clerk



TOWN of NEW SHOREHAM

OFFICE of the TOWN CLERK

TELEPHONE (401) 466-3200

FAX (401) 466-3219

TTY 711

July 13, 2020

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.  
Chairman, RI House Committee on the Judiciary  
Via email: [rep-craven@rilegislature.gov](mailto:rep-craven@rilegislature.gov)

Re: Support for 8102 Relating to Elections – Mail Ballots

Dear Representative Craven:

I am writing as Clerk of the New Shoreham Board of Canvassers to urge your support of H8102, introduced July 10, 2010 and now before the House Committee on the Judiciary:

The bill is an improvement over H 7896, which sought to simplify the emergency balloting process. H8102 truly streamlines emergency voting by simply giving the voter the option of using time-tested technology to cast a ballot at Town Hall during the emergency balloting period. The technology offers efficiencies at the local level by allowing the use of pollpads during the application process. I believe voters will also feel more secure with the new system: if a ballot is spoiled and cannot be counted, the voting machine will reject it and the voter will have the option of casting a new ballot. And time will be saved during the tabulation period when thousands of emergency votes will be electronically transmitted.

No voters will be disenfranchised because they will have the option to use the existing emergency balloting system.

Revenue shortfalls under Covid-19 have left us struggling to do “more with less.” We are all expecting record-breaking voter turnout. Passage of the bill and the attendant streamlining of emergency voting process will help to my office operate more efficiently during this challenging time.

I respectfully request your support of this legislation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Fiona Fitzpatrick  
New Shoreham Town Clerk

Cc: Robert Rapoza, Executive Director, RI Board of Elections  
Rob Rock, Director of Elections, RI Secretary of State

**From:** Lima, Nicholas J. <NLima@CranstonRI.org>

**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2020 12:48 PM

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Cranston Board of Canvassers - Letter of Support for H8102

Dear Honorable Members of the General Assembly,

Please take note that the Cranston Board of Canvassers voted unanimously on Thursday to **support** the language and effect of H-8102, and strongly urges the speedy passage of this legislation by the House and Senate.

Simply said, this is a common-sense procedural change to allow voters to easily sign in on an electronic PollPad using photo ID and cast their ballot directly into a voting machine that is secured at the local boards of canvassers.

The bill constitutes a simple process change to emergency voting that will truly make a world of difference, administratively, in the processing of emergency mail ballots in volume for elections both this fall and in the future, while simultaneously streamlining an unnecessarily time-consuming and cumbersome process for voters and election administrators. It will also ensure that voters' ballots will be cast as intended in the event of over-votes or errors, as voters will place their ballots directly into a voting machine and be prompted to make corrections immediately, instead of placing their ballots in an oath envelope to be reviewed days later, without the voter present and with limited or no chance for correction.

The legislation will prevent the Board of Elections from being overwhelmed with thousands of emergency ballots transported by the cities and towns on Election Day, and also upholds the integrity of the election process by including a voter ID component, while still retaining fail-safe voting procedures for voters who may not have a current ID to vote – just as they can do so now via a traditional emergency ballot application based on signature verification.

While due to the challenges presented by COVID-19, this is *not* the only change desperately needed this election cycle, H-8102 does constitute a significant improvement over an existing, highly flawed emergency voting process that is in no way designed in existing law to accommodate its present volume and use by voters, which as we've communicated previously, was an urgent issue for elections administrators even before the start of the pandemic.

Passage of this legislation now will ensure cities and towns, as well as the Board of Elections, are not overwhelmed during the 20-day emergency periods, at the unacceptable cost of disenfranchising countless voters.

If you have any questions about this legislation or why it is so important for the success of the upcoming elections, please do not hesitate to call me directly at 401-780-3128.

Thank you for your consideration of H-8102 as a means to safeguard and significantly improve our elections process this fall.

Very truly yours,  
Nick Lima  
Registrar/Director of Elections  
On behalf of the Cranston Board of Canvassers

Cc: Randy Jackvony, Cranston BOC Chair



Nick Lima  
Registrar / Director of Elections  
City of Cranston | Canvassing Department  
Office: 401-780-3127 | Direct Line: 401-780-3128

Email: [nlima@cranstonri.org](mailto:nlima@cranstonri.org) | Website: [www.cranstonri.com](http://www.cranstonri.com) [[cranstonri.com](http://cranstonri.com)]  
Cranston City Hall Room 100 | 869 Park Ave., Cranston, RI 02910.

Raymond E. Lambert, Esq, Chairman  
Board of Canvassers

Marianne Kelly, CMC, Clerk  
Board of Canvassers

**TOWN OF WEST WARWICK**

1170 Main Street  
West Warwick, RI 02893-4829  
(401) 827-9035  
Fax: (401) 822-9266

July 13, 2020

Dear Honorable Members:

I am writing regarding House Bill H8102 which is being introduced on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 and related to emergency voting.

As the Clerk to the West Warwick Board of Canvassers I strongly support this bill. My board members recognize the passage of this bill as imperative to our office staff being able to handle the increased requests for emergency mail ballots in a manner that is safe for the voters and in the most efficient manner possible. Having the poll pad, DS-200 and ballots on hand will reduce handling extra paperwork and create a more secure process for the voters to cast their ballots during the emergency period.

I am a member of the Elections Committee for the Rhode Island Town and City Clerks' Association who support this bill recognizing the commitment we have to our community members for safe and secure elections and the importance of offering support to the local Boards of Canvassers as well as confidence to the voters.

On behalf of the Town of West Warwick I respectfully ask that the General Assembly approve this legislation.

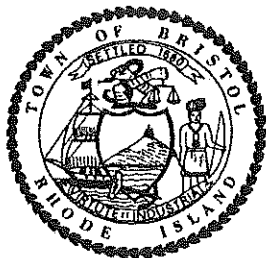
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

*Marianne Kelly*

Marianne Kelly, CMC, Town Clerk  
Clerk, West Warwick Board of Canvassers

Cc: Robert Rapoza, Executive Director, RI Board of Elections  
Rob Rock, Director of Elections, RI Secretary of State



## TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Louis P. Cirillo, CMC, Town Clerk

10 Court Street  
Bristol, Rhode Island 02809-2208  
Tel. 401-253-7000  
Fax 401-253-2647  
Email: [lpcirillo@bristolri.gov](mailto:lpcirillo@bristolri.gov)  
[www.bristolri.gov](http://www.bristolri.gov)

July 13, 2020

To: Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee  
Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Honorable Members:

I am writing regarding a bill introduced recently regarding some streamlining steps to the emergency voting procedure (H-8102).

As the Clerk to the Bristol Board of Canvassers, I strongly support this bill. My board members recognize the challenges of handling the requests for emergency mail ballots in a manner that is safe for both the voters and staff members, and also the challenges of fulfilling these request in the most efficient way possible.

Allowing poll pads, DS-200 units and ballots on hand will reduce the handling of extra paperwork and, in turn, create a more secure process for the voters to cast their emergency ballots.

I respectfully request your careful consideration of this very important and timely piece of legislation and thank you for your most kind attention.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Louis P. Cirillo, CMC

Town Clerk and Clerk of the Board of Canvassers

XC: Robert Rapoza, Executive Director, RI Board of Elections  
Rob Rock, Director of Elections, RI Secretary of State



Canvassing Authority

## Town of Portsmouth

2200 East Main Road  
Portsmouth, Rhode Island 02871

(401) 683-3157

July 14, 2020

Dear Honorable Members:

I am writing regarding House Bill H8102 which is being introduced today, July 14, 2020 related to emergency voting.

As the Clerk to the Portsmouth Canvassing Authority I strongly support this bill. It is imperative that Rhode Island voters are provided safe opportunities to cast their ballots and assurances that local offices are able to process results accurately and efficiently. To handle the increased requests for emergency mail ballots, we must be given the tools to succeed. Having poll pads, an optical scan DS-200 and ballots on hand will reduce extra paperwork and processing time and create a more secure process for the voters to cast their ballots during the emergency period.

I am a member of the Elections Committee for the Rhode Island Town and City Clerks' Association who support this bill recognizing the commitment we have to our community members for safe and secure elections and the importance of offering support to the local Boards of Canvassers as well as confidence to the voters.

We respectfully request that the General Assembly approve this legislation.

Please contact this office if you have any questions (401-683-3157).

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline S. Schulz  
Registrar of Voters  
2200 East Main Road  
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Portsmouth Canvassing Authority  
E. Richard Carpender, Chair  
Nancy Zitka  
Ellen Vadney

cc: Robert Rapoza, Executive Director, RI Board of Elections  
Rob Rock, Director of Elections, RI Secretary of State



# TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN

350 East Main Road ♦ Middletown, Rhode Island 02842

Office of the Town Clerk  
Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC

Office 1-401-847-0009  
Fax 1-401-845-0406

July 13, 2020

State Board of Elections  
Bob Rapoza, Director  
2000 Plainfield Pike  
Cranston, RI 02921

Dear Mr. Rapoza,

I am the Clerk to the Middletown Board of Canvassers; the Board of Canvassers and I strongly support the bills introduced in the 2020 legislative session relating to streamlining emergency voting (H8102 and any Senate Companion Bill).

Middletown has a small canvassing staff, the request for emergency ballots has steadily increased each election. The current process used for emergency ballots is time consuming not only to staff, but for the voter. Passage of this bill and any Senate Companion bill would improve efficiencies of the emergency mail ballot process.

On behalf of the Middletown Board of Canvassers, I respectfully ask that the General Assembly approve this legislation.

Best,

*Wendy J.W. Marshall*

Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC, Town Clerk  
Clerk, Middletown Board of Canvassers

July 13, 2020

To: Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee  
Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Honorable Members:

I am writing regarding bills introduced in the 2020 legislative session related to streamlining emergency voting (H8102 and S2598).

As Town Clerk and Clerk to the Cumberland Board of Canvassers I would like to express our support of these bills. Our board members recognize the passage of these bills to be paramount to our office staff being able to handle emergency mail ballot requests in a manner that is safe for the voters, themselves and in the most efficient manner possible. Having the poll pad, DS-200 and ballots on hand will reduce handling extra paperwork and create a more secure process for the voters to cast their ballots during the emergency period.

The Rhode Island Town and City Clerks' Association has voted to support both of these bills recognizing the importance of offering support to the local Boards of Canvassers and confidence to the voters of the commitment we have to our community members for safe and secure elections.

I respectfully ask that the General Assembly approve this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandra M. Giovanelli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sandra" being more prominent.

Sandra M. Giovanelli  
Town Clerk

Cc: Robert Rapoza, Executive Director, RI Board of Elections  
Rob Rock, Director of Elections, Secretary of State



## Town Clerk's Office

TOWN HOUSE ROAD, HOPKINTON, R. I. 02833

July 14, 2020

Mr. Robert Rapoza, Executive Director  
RI Board of Elections  
2000 Plainfield Pike, Suite A  
Cranston, RI 02921

Re: H 8102 Substitute A Mail Ballots

Dear Mr. Rapoza,

I am writing in support of H 8102 Substitute A which is scheduled for hearing during the current legislative session. This legislation will allow the Board of Canvassers the use of an electronic Poll Pad, a DS-200 tabulation unit and paper ballots during the emergency mail ballot period. It will provide for a streamlined process for handling emergency mail ballots thereby improving the ability of local boards to securely conduct the 2020 elections at the local level during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

I am hopeful that the General Assembly will give this legislation full consideration and approve its passage as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at 401-377-7777 or by email at [townclerk@hopkintonri.org](mailto:townclerk@hopkintonri.org). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin  
Town Clerk/Board of Canvassers Clerk



**Town of Little Compton  
Town Hall  
P.O. Box 226  
Little Compton, RI 02837**

July 14, 2020

Dear Honorable Members:

I am writing regarding House Bill H8102 which is being introduced today, July 14, 2020 related to emergency voting.

As the Clerk to the Little Compton Canvassing Authority I strongly support this bill. It is imperative that Rhode Island voters are provided safe opportunities to cast their ballots and assurances that local offices are able to process results accurately and efficiently. To handle the increased requests for emergency mail ballots, we must be given the tools to succeed. Having poll pads, an optical scan DS-200 and ballots on hand will reduce extra paperwork and processing time and create a more secure process for the voters to cast their ballots during the emergency period.

I am a member of the Elections Committee for the Rhode Island Town and City Clerks' Association who support this bill recognizing the commitment we have to our community members for safe and secure elections and the importance of offering support to the local Boards of Canvassers as well as confidence to the voters.

We respectfully request that the General Assembly approve this legislation.

Please contact this office if you have any questions (401-635-4400).

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Wordell, CMC, Town Clerk  
Clerk, Little Compton Board of Canvassers

Cc: Robert Rapoza, Executive Director, RI Board of Elections  
Rob Rock, Director of Elections, RI Secretary of State